



FAQ's

1. What are the responsibilities involved in being a homestay parent? What are the requirements?

- Welcoming a student into your home with the spirit that they are a new family member- not tenant
- You are expected to provide what you would make available to your own family
- A clean, safe and caring environment, emotional support
- House Rules
- Private bedroom (window, bed, storage, study space in home if not available in bedroom)
- Bedding, linens, toilet paper, laundry etc
- Three nutritious meals a day plus reasonable snacks
- Access to the common living areas of the house and house key
- Interaction with the family & time for quality conversations

2. What does three nutritional meals plus reasonable snacks mean? What if my student has specific dietary requests?

Host families are expected to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner every day plus reasonable snacks(fruit, yogurt, granola bars). On weekends meals must be provided, but times may be more flexible and will be discussed in advance. Below some examples for each of the meals:

- **Breakfast:** A common Canadian breakfast often consists of some of the following: Tea, milk, juice, cereal, toast, waffles, bacon, eggs or pancakes.
- **Lunch:** on school days, the host family will provide a "bagged lunch". A typical bagged lunch includes a sandwich with meat or cheese, fruit, muffin or cookies and a drink. Many students like to prepare their own lunches, please discuss preferences with your student. Leftovers, microwave dinners or instant noodles may occasionally also make an enjoyable lunch if available.
- **Dinner:** A dinner should have a main course, at least one type of vegetable, and either rice, potatoes or pasta. The main course should have one type of protein at least three to four nights a week. An evening meal must be prepared and left in the fridge for the student if the student will be late coming home from school.
- **Dietary supplements:** Are not included within the contractual homestay participation agreement. Allergenic and diet sensitive products, such as dietary supplements, vitamins, lactose- intolerant, vegan or dietary replacement foods are the responsibility of the student to purchase.

3. What toilet articles, do we as a host family supply?

The use of the following is open to students: hand soap, toilet paper, tissue paper, basic shampoo and conditioner if available.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss are optional to provide. Some host families do provide these items as they would to their own children.

Students purchase items of special request as well as shaving and feminine hygiene products and all hair styling related items.

The purchase of a hair dryer for the students use only is highly recommended.

3. How long does a student stay?

The majority of students study for one or two semesters – i.e. September–January, February–June OR September–June. Some students return for another school year and some stay several years and graduate.

4. What kinds of things does the student pay for?

Personal cell phones, Clothes, School supplies and school fees, Personal toiletries, medication and medical bills, transit- monthly bus card, Haircuts and other personal services, Personal entertainment and expenses unless student is invited by you.

5. How do I get paid the homestay fee?

There are two main methods for payment:










Direct Payment: The homestay family is paid directly by the student. Please remind the student if you have not received payment before the hosting month begins. We highly recommend the usage of the [Payment Record Template](#).

Direct Deposit: The homestay family is paid by the International Programs Department. Standard payment procedure is by direct deposit on the last business day before the hosting month begins.

6. Are the students registered for medical insurance? How and with whom?

Please refer to section 3.5 from Homestay Manual or visit our website here: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/international/current-students/medical-insurance/>

7. Who do I contact in an emergency?

LEVEL	EXAMPLE	TIMING	CONTACT
	 Fatality		Michael Frankowski, District Administrator ☎ 604.219.6988
	 Arrest	Immediately!	Rebecca Rowley, Vice Principal ☎ 604.418.4624
	 Serious Injury		Martina Brazeau, Homestay Manager ☎ 604.341.0515
	 Parties, drugs, alcohol	Next business day	Homestay Coordinators ☎ 604.981.1155 ☎ 604.981.1154
	 Academics and attendance	Within current business week	Multicultural Worker ✉ international.mcw@wvschools.ca Rebecca Rowley, Vice Principal ✉ rowley@wvschools.ca
	 Mediation+Moves	Within current business week	Homestay Coordinators ✉ homestay@wvschools.ca
	 Everyday life questions	During business hours (9am-4:30 pm)	Homestay Coordinators ✉ homestay@wvschools.ca
	 General enquiries, travel letters, visas, medical insurance, etc		Receptionist ✉ international.reception@wvschools.ca ☎ 604.981.1158

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8. What activities are planned by the School District?

Please visit our website here:

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/international/current-students/activities/>

We encourage Homestay families to include their students on excursions with their family.

9. What about family holidays?

We encourage families to include their student on family excursions and holidays wherever possible. If this is not possible, please see additional options listed below:

1. A family member or family friend of the host family comes into the home stay who is 25 years or older to care for the student (s) and we would require the contact information of this person for emergency purposes.
2. The student can go to a friend's home in this case we need the friend's parents' names, phone number and address to confirm adults will be supervising the students.

3. Lastly, we can ask other district host families if they can temporarily host the student, in this case the current host family would pay the temporary family for each night they host the student.